

Did you know?

- Influenza infects one in five children every year.
- Young children are more likely to get the flu and pass it on to their family and other children.
- Children in child care centres catch the flu more often than other children.
- In young children, influenza may cause ear infections, asthma, and, in severe cases, hospital admission.
- The best way to prevent flu is to get the flu vaccine.
- This study will test the effectiveness of flu vaccine and find out if it should be recommended for all young children in Australia.

More information

If you have any questions about this study, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

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The study is supported by Sanofi Pasteur, a vaccine manufacturing company interested in exploring the benefits of influenza vaccination in children.

the **childr^{en}'s** hospital at Westmead

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An important influenza
vaccine study for children
aged six months to
36 months

A new research project from

the **childr^{en}'s** hospital at Westmead

We invite you and your child to participate in a study conducted by Immunisation Research at The Children's Hospital at Westmead.

What is influenza?

Influenza (the 'flu') is a viral illness that is transmitted from one person to another by coughing, sneezing or sharing of food utensils or toys. Every year, one in five children get the flu and it is more common in children attending day care centres. Flu causes complications like asthma, ear infection, and sometimes hospital admission. Young children are as likely to be hospitalised for flu as elderly people. The best way to prevent flu is to get the flu vaccine.

Influenza vaccine and young children

In Australia, influenza vaccination is currently recommended for children with high risk medical conditions. These include lung and heart problems that put them at risk of developing complications.

Western Australia (since 2008) and some countries like the USA recommend that all young children (aged six months to five years) should get the flu vaccine every year.

However, more studies are needed to find out how well children aged six to 36 months are protected from infection after influenza vaccination.

What is this study about?

This study will see how well influenza vaccine protects young children against the flu. It will help us determine if the flu vaccine should be given to all young children in Australia.

It will also determine the impact that influenza infection can have on family economics when young children get the flu, eg. time off work, treatment costs etc.

Are there any benefits for my child participating in the study?

- The flu vaccine reduces your child's risk of getting serious flu
- The vaccine is licensed by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration, and safe for use in children
- A team consisting of a paediatrician and immunisation nurses will see your child and give the vaccine
- The study team can come to your child's day care centre for vaccination

Who can join the study?

All children six months to 36 months can join the study, except children who have:

- had a flu shot before
- certain medical conditions, eg. a history of Guillain Barre Syndrome

What does this study involve?

The study will start in 2009.

- Children may join the study between January and August each year that the study continues
- A study doctor will ask you questions about your child's health and check your child to ensure that the study is right for your child
- The vaccine will be given free of charge
- Blood tests are NOT required. We will find out how effective vaccination has been by asking you (phone, text or email) if your child develops any flu like illnesses during winter

